

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present Application for Patent. Claims 29-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by EP 0 987 680 A1 by Marston, hereinafter referred to as "Marston." Claims 1-6, 10-16, and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,255,339 by Fette et al, hereinafter referred to as "Fette," in view of U.S. Patent 6,301,265 by Kleider, hereinafter referred to as "Kleider."

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Applicants hereinabove cancel claims 29-31 without prejudice. Therefore this rejection is obviated.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Fette and Kleider as making obvious Applicants' claimed invention. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation of, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference(s) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

With respect to claim 1, the pending claim recites:

1. A method of quantizing information about a parameter of speech, comprising:
generating at least one weighted value of the parameter for at least one
previously processed frame of speech, wherein the sum of all weights used is
one;

subtracting the at least one weighted value from a value of the parameter for a currently processed frame of speech to yield a difference value; and quantizing the difference value.

As recited in claim 1, a quantizing method includes generating a weighted parameter for a previously processed frame of speech. Fette teaches away from this, by treating multiple frames as a superframe. See Fette, col. 6, lines 20-29. Fette processes the superframe as a unit. While the superframe includes multiple frames, the frames are processed, including quantizing, together. Fette does not generate a weighted value for a parameter of a previously processed frame, but rather weights the superframe to indicate voicing, wherein the scale is -1 to $+1$. This is in contrast to Applicants' claimed invention wherein the sum of all weights is 1. A range of -1 to $+1$ does not satisfy this limitation. By providing the sum of all weights equal to one, the individual weighted parameters are compared to each other. In contrast, the weighting discussed in col. 11 of Fette compares the values to absolute reference scale, wherein -1 is highly unvoiced and $+1$ is highly voiced. Additionally, this section details the summing of parameters for each frame, and does not teach or suggest the sum of all weights for frames of speech being equal to one.

The teachings of Kleider do not add sufficient material to complete the missing pieces in the prima facie case of obviousness. Kleider teaches a delta quantizer that characterizes the spectral change from the previous frame. Kleider does not teach subtracting a weighted parameter value of a previous frame from the value of a parameter of a current frame. As recited in Applicant's claim 1, the weighted value is subtracted from the unweighted value. The difference is then quantized. While Kleider discusses a delta quantizer, this is a general reference and does not teach or suggest the specific limitations of Applicants' claims. Not would it be obvious to one of skill in the art to make such a conclusion without using hindsight based on Applicants' claimed invention. There is no teaching or suggestion in Fette or Kleider of a system wherein a weighted parameter of a previously processed frame is subtracted from a current frames parameter (unweighted) to result in a difference that is the object of the quantization.

The arguments given hereinabove with respect to claim 1 are applicable to claims 2-6, 10-16 and 20-25. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record and request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION:

On page 5, beginning at line 10, paragraph no. 1:

Time-domain coders such as the CELP coder typically rely upon a high number of bits, N_0 , per frame to preserve the accuracy of the time-domain speech waveform. Such coders typically deliver excellent voice quality provided the number of bits, N_0 , per frame is relatively large (e.g., 8 kbps or above). However, at low bit rates (4 kbps and below), time-domain coders fail to retain high quality and robust performance due to the limited number of available bits. At low bit rates, the limited codebook space clips the waveform-matching capability of conventional time-domain coders, which are so successfully deployed in higher-rate commercial applications. Hence, despite improvements over time, many CELP coding systems operating at low bit rates suffer from perceptually significant distortion typically characterized as noise.

On page 7, beginning at line 13, paragraph no. 3:

In recent years, coders have emerged that are hybrids of both waveform coders and parametric coders. Illustrative of these so-called hybrid coders is the prototype-waveform interpolation (PWI) speech coding system. The PWI coding system may also be known as a prototype pitch period (PPP) speech coder. A PWI coding system provides an efficient method for coding voiced speech. The basic concept of PWI is to extract a representative pitch cycle (the prototype waveform) at fixed intervals, to transmit its description, and to reconstruct the speech signal by interpolating between the prototype waveforms. The PWI method may operate either on the LP residual signal or on the speech signal. An exemplary PWI, or PPP, speech coder is described in U.S. Application Serial No. 09/217,494, entitled PERIODIC SPEECH CODING, filed

December 21, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,456,964 issued October 24, 2002, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and fully incorporated herein by reference. Other PWI, or PPP, speech coders are described in U.S. Patent No. 5,884,253 and W. Bastiaan Kleijn & Wolfgang Granzow *Methods for Waveform Interpolation in Speech Coding*, in 1 *Digital Signal Processing* 215-230 (1991).

On page 13, beginning at line 8, paragraph no. 1:

During typical operation of the cellular telephone system, the base stations 12 receive sets of reverse link signals from sets of mobile units 10. The mobile units 10 are conducting telephone calls or other communications. Each reverse link signal received by a given base station 12 is processed within that base station 12. The resulting data is forwarded to the [BSCs] BSC 14. The [BSCs] BSC 14 provides call resource allocation and mobility management functionality including the orchestration of soft handoffs between base stations 12. The [BSCs] BSC 14 also routes the received data to the MSC 16, which provides additional routing services for interface with the PSTN 18. Similarly, the PSTN 18 interfaces with the MSC 16, and the MSC 16 interfaces with the [BSCs] BSC 14, which in turn control the base stations 12 to transmit sets of forward link signals to sets of mobile units 10. It should be understood by those of skill that the subscriber units 10 may be fixed units in alternate embodiments.

On page 14, beginning at line 5, paragraph no. 1:

The speech samples $s(n)$ represent speech signals that have been digitized and quantized in accordance with any of various methods known in the art including, e.g., pulse code modulation (PCM), companded μ -law, or A-law. As known in the art, the speech samples $s(n)$ are organized into frames of input data wherein each frame comprises a predetermined number of digitized speech samples $s(n)$. In an exemplary embodiment, a sampling rate of 8 kHz is employed, with each 20 ms frame comprising 160 samples. In the embodiments described below, the rate of data transmission may

advantageously be varied on a frame-by-frame basis from full rate to [(]half rate to quarter rate to eighth rate. Varying the data transmission rate is advantageous because lower bit rates may be selectively employed for frames containing relatively less speech information. As understood by those skilled in the art, other sampling rates and/or frame sizes may be used. Also in the embodiments described below, the speech encoding (or coding) mode may be varied on a frame-by-frame basis in response to the speech information or energy of the frame.

On page 14, beginning at line 20, paragraph no. 2:

The first encoder 100 and the second decoder 110 together comprise a first speech coder (encoder/decoder), or speech codec. The speech coder could be used in any communication device for transmitting speech signals, including, e.g., the subscriber units, BTSs, or BSCs described above with reference to FIG. 1. Similarly, the second encoder 106 and the first decoder 104 together comprise a second speech coder. It is understood by those of skill in the art that speech coders may be implemented with a digital signal processor (DSP), an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC), discrete gate logic, firmware, or any conventional programmable software module and a microprocessor. The software module could reside in RAM memory, flash memory, registers, or any other form of storage medium known in the art. Alternatively, any conventional processor, controller, or state machine could be substituted for the microprocessor. Exemplary ASICs designed specifically for speech coding are described in U.S. Patent No. 5,727,123, assigned to the assignee of the present invention and fully incorporated herein by reference, and U.S. Application Serial No. 08/197,417, entitled VOCODER ASIC, filed February 16, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,784,532 issued July 21, 1998, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and fully incorporated herein by reference.

On page 17, beginning at line 12, paragraph no. 2:

In one embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 5, a multimode speech encoder 400 communicates with a multimode speech decoder 402 across a communication channel,

or transmission medium, 404. The communication channel 404 is advantageously an RF interface configured in accordance with the IS-95 standard. It would be understood by those of skill in the art that the encoder 400 has an associated decoder (not shown). The encoder 400 and its associated decoder together form a first speech coder. It would also be understood by those of skill in the art that the decoder 402 has an associated encoder (not shown). The decoder 402 and its associated encoder together form a second speech coder. The first and second speech coders may advantageously be implemented as part of first and second DSPs, and may reside in, e.g., a subscriber unit and a base station in a PCS or cellular telephone system, or in a subscriber unit and a gateway in a satellite system.

On page 18, beginning at line 13, paragraph no. 2:

A speech signal, $s(n)$, is provided to the parameter calculator 406. The speech signal is divided into blocks of samples called frames. The value n designates the frame number. In an alternate embodiment, a linear prediction (LP) residual error signal is used in place of the speech signal. The LP residue is used by speech coders such as, e.g., the CELP coder. Computation of the LP residue is advantageously performed by providing the speech signal to an inverse LP filter (not shown). The transfer function of the inverse LP filter, $A(z)$, is computed in accordance with the following equation:

$$A(z) = 1 - a_1z^{-1} - a_2z^{-2} - \dots - a_pz^{-p},$$

in which the coefficients a_i are filter taps having predefined values chosen in accordance with known methods, as described in the aforementioned U.S. Patent No. 5,414,796 and U.S. Patent No. 6,456,964. The number p indicates the number of previous samples the inverse LP filter uses for prediction purposes. In a particular embodiment, p is set to ten.

On page 22, beginning at line 1, paragraph no. 1:

In accordance with a NELP encoding mode 410, a filtered, pseudo-random noise signal is used to model the speech frame. The NELP encoding mode 410 is a relatively simple technique that achieves a low bit rate. The NELP encoding mode [412] 410 may be used to advantage to encode frames classified as unvoiced speech. An exemplary NELP encoding mode is described in detail in the aforementioned U.S. [Application Serial No. 09/217,494.] Patent No. 6,456,964.

On page 22, beginning at line 7, paragraph no. 2:

In accordance with a PPP encoding mode 410, only a subset of the pitch periods within each frame are encoded. The remaining periods of the speech signal are reconstructed by interpolating between these prototype periods. In a time-domain implementation of PPP coding, a first set of parameters is calculated that describes how to modify a previous prototype period to approximate the current prototype period. One or more codevectors are selected which, when summed, approximate the difference between the current prototype period and the modified previous prototype period. A second set of parameters describes these selected codevectors. In a frequency-domain implementation of PPP coding, a set of parameters is calculated to describe amplitude and phase spectra of the prototype. This may be done either in an

absolute sense, or predictively as described hereinbelow. In either implementation of PPP coding, the decoder synthesizes an output speech signal by reconstructing a current prototype based upon the first and second sets of parameters. The speech signal is then interpolated over the region between the current reconstructed prototype period and a previous reconstructed prototype period. The prototype is thus a portion of the current frame that will be linearly interpolated with prototypes from previous frames that were similarly positioned within the frame in order to reconstruct the speech signal or the LP residual signal at the decoder (i.e., a past prototype period is used as a predictor of the current prototype period). An exemplary PPP speech coder is described in detail in the aforementioned U.S. [Application Serial No. 09/217,494.] Patent No. 6,456,964.

On page 24, beginning at line 9, paragraph no. 2:

If the packet disassembler and packet loss detector module 414 detects the packet, the packet is disassembled and provided to the pertinent decoding mode 416. If the packet disassembler and packet loss detector module 414 does not detect a packet, a packet loss is declared and the erasure decoder 418 advantageously performs frame erasure processing as described in a related [application filed herewith] Application No. 09/557,283 filed April 24, 2000, entitled FRAME ERASURE COMPENSATION METHOD IN A VARIABLE RATE SPEECH CODER, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and fully incorporated herein by reference.

On page 24, beginning at line 17, paragraph no. 3:

The parallel array of decoding modes 416 and the erasure decoder 418 are coupled to the post filter 420. The pertinent decoding mode 416 decodes, or de-quantizes, the packet provides the information to the post filter 420. The post filter 420 reconstructs, or synthesizes, the speech frame, outputting synthesized speech frames,

$\hat{s}(n)$. Exemplary decoding modes and post filters are described in detail in the aforementioned U.S. Patent No. 5,414,796 and U.S. [Application Serial No. 09/217,494.] Patent No. 6,456,964.

On page 27, beginning at line 19, paragraph no. 3:

Due to their periodic nature, voiced frames can be coded using a scheme in which the entire set of bits is used to quantize one prototype pitch period, or a finite set of prototype pitch periods, of the frame of a known length. This length of the prototype pitch period is called the pitch lag. These prototype pitch periods, and possibly the prototype pitch periods of adjacent frames, may then be used to reconstruct the entire speech frame without loss of perceptual quality. This PPP scheme of extracting the prototype pitch period from a frame of speech and using these prototypes for reconstructing the entire frame is described in the aforementioned U.S. [Application Serial No. 09/217,494.] Patent No. 6,456,964.

On page 28, beginning at line 5, paragraph no. 1:

In one embodiment a quantizer 500 is used to quantize highly periodic frames such as voiced frames in accordance with a PPP coding scheme, as shown in [FIG. 8] FIG. 7. The quantizer 500 includes a prototype extractor 502, a frequency domain converter 504, an amplitude quantizer 506, and a phase quantizer 508. The prototype extractor 502 is coupled to the frequency domain converter 504. The frequency domain converter 504 is coupled to the amplitude quantizer 506 and to the phase quantizer 508.

On page 29, beginning at line 1, paragraph no. 1:

Other schemes for coding voiced frames, such as, e.g., multiband excitation (MBE) speech coding and harmonic coding, transform the entire frame (either LP residue or speech) or parts thereof into frequency-domain values through Fourier transform representations comprising amplitudes and phases that can be quantized and used for synthesis into speech at the decoder (not shown). To use the quantizer of [FIG. 8] FIG. 7 with such coding schemes, the prototype extractor 502 is omitted, and the frequency domain converter 504 serves to decompose the complex short-term frequency spectral representations of the frame into an amplitude vector and a phase vector. And in either coding scheme, a suitable windowing function such as, e.g., a Hamming window, may first be applied. An exemplary MBE speech coding scheme is described in D.W. Griffin & J.S. Lim, "Multiband Excitation Vocoder," 36(8) *IEE Trans. on ASSP* (Aug. 1988). An exemplary harmonic speech coding scheme is described in L.B. Almeida & J.M. Tribolet, "Harmonic Coding: A Low Bit-Rate, Good Quality, Speech Coding Technique," *Proc. ICASSP '82* 1664-1667 (1982).

On page 32, beginning at line 16, paragraph no. 2:

In one embodiment phase values may be quantized as follows. A subset of the phase vector for frame 'm' may be denoted ϕ_m . It is possible to quantize ϕ_m as being equal to the phase of a reference waveform (time domain or frequency domain of the entire frame or a part thereof), and zero or more linear shifts applied to one or more bands of the transformation of the reference waveform. Such a quantization technique is described in U.S. Application Serial No. [09/365,491,] 09/356,491 entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUBSAMPLING PHASE SPECTRUM INFORMATION, filed

July 19, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,397,175 issued May 28, 2002, assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and fully incorporated herein by reference. Such a reference waveform could be a transformation of the waveform of frame m_N , or any other predetermined waveform.

APPENDIX B

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM:

1. (Once Amended) An antenna apparatus in a wireless data communication system, comprising:

a first antenna element;

a second antenna element; [and]

a circulator coupled to the first and second antenna elements, wherein the circulator is configured to transmit signals to the first antenna element and to receive[s] signals from the second antenna element; and

a cable coupled to the circulator, the cable adapted for communication with a base station, the cable adapted for communication of transmit signals to the first antenna and for communication of receive signals from the second antenna element.

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-- PRIOR ART --

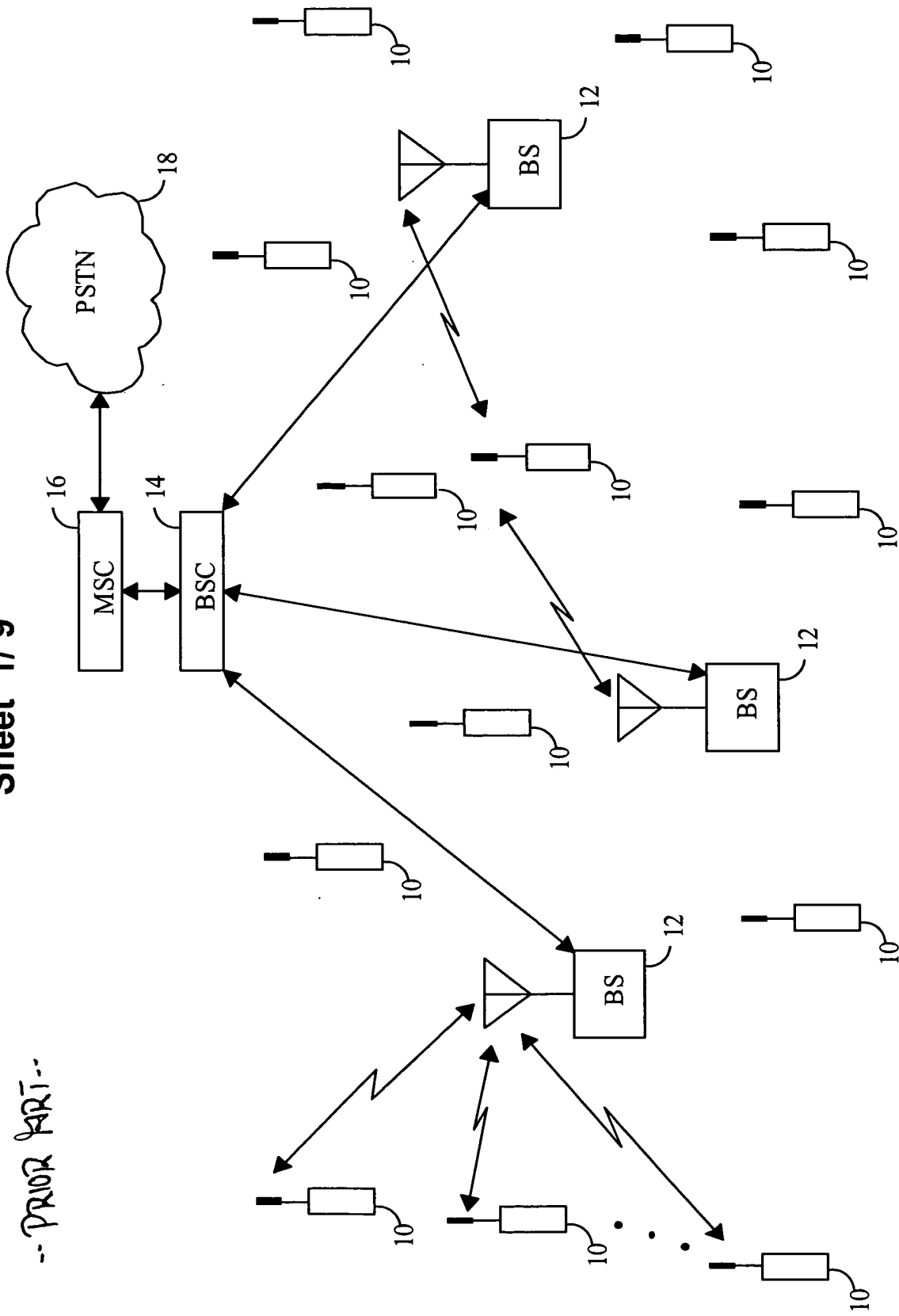


FIG. 1

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- PRIOR ART -

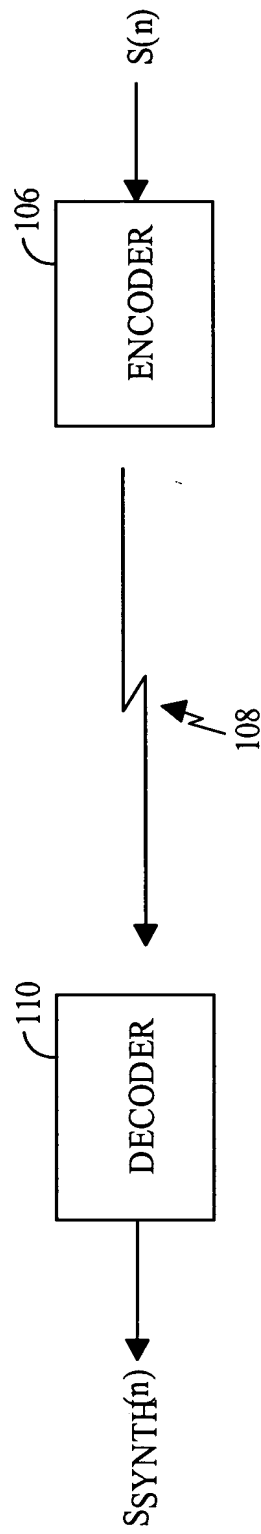
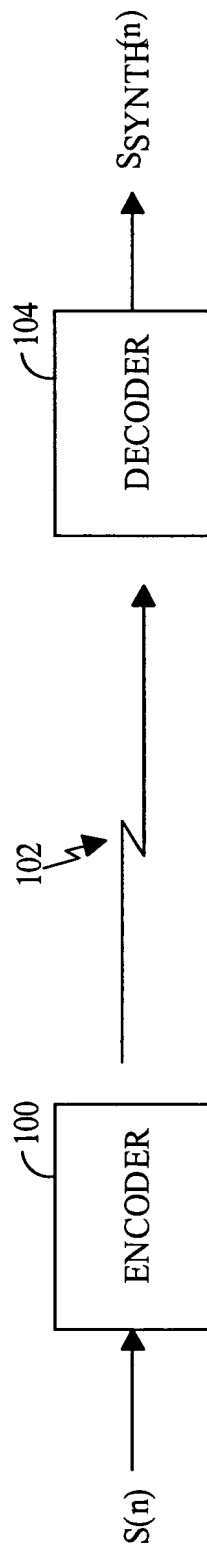
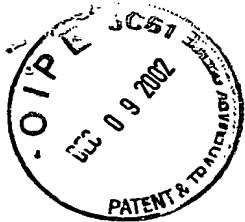


FIG. 2

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-PRIOR ART

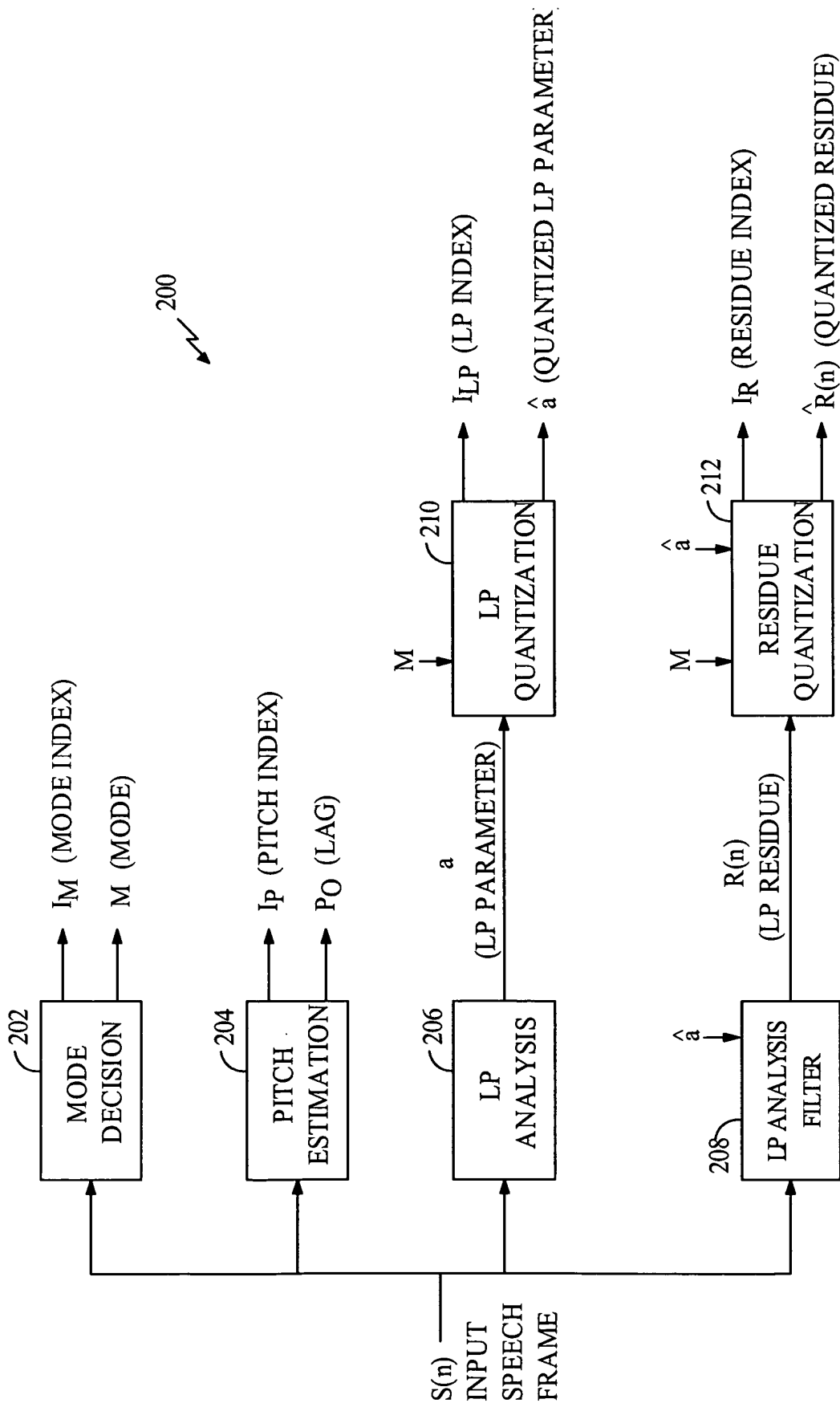
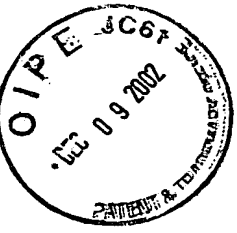


FIG. 3



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- PRIOR ART -

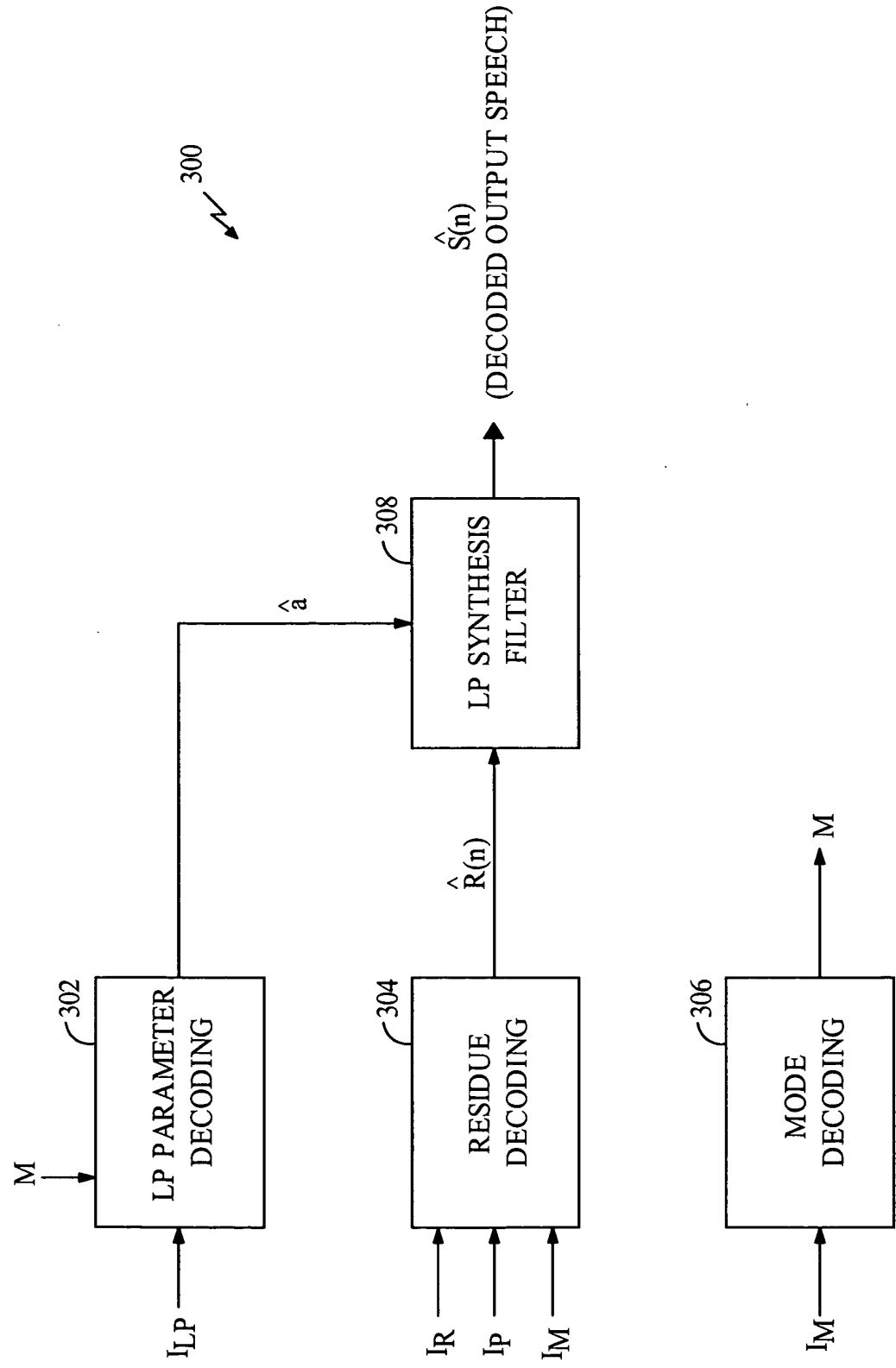


FIG. 4



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- PRIOR ART -

VOICED SEGMENT

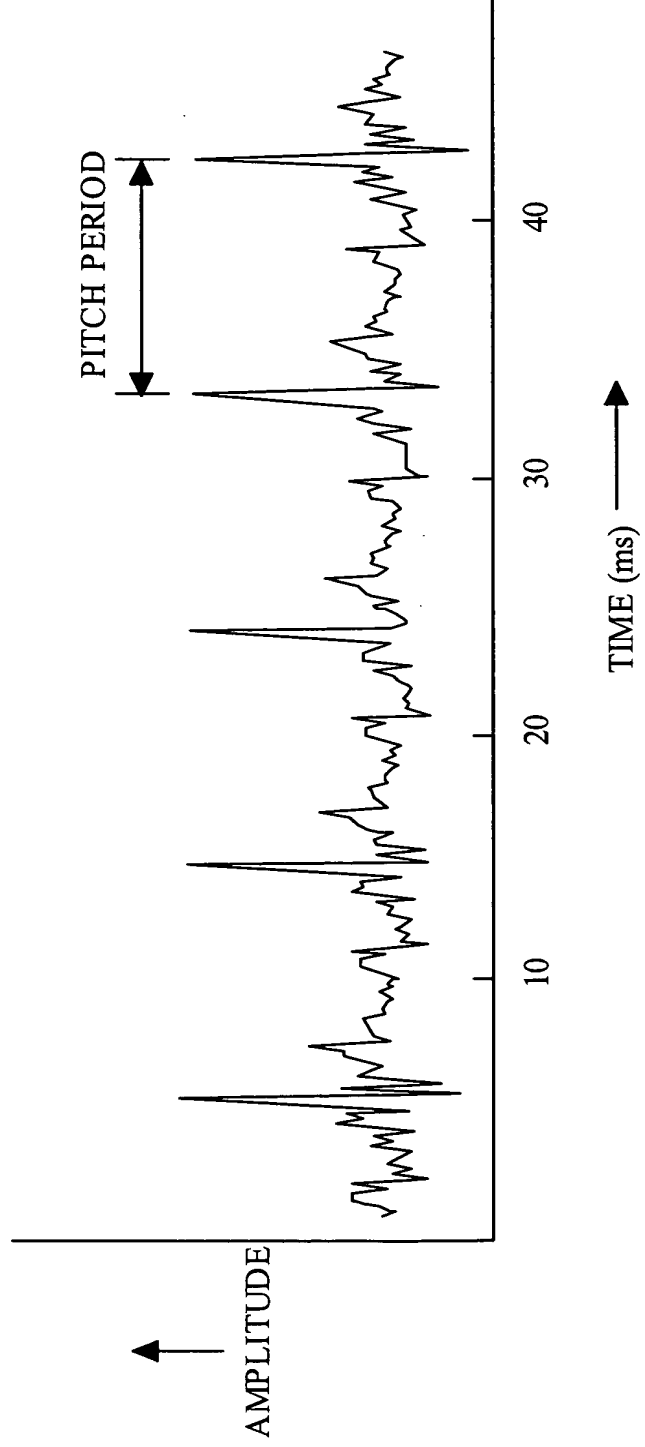


FIG. 6